

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following list of claims:

1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A filter element comprising a composite homogenous structure of inorganic fibers and a ~~reactant~~ catalyst.

28. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the filter element is a structure which has been formed by a process of injection-molding.

29. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the inorganic fibers are selected from the group consisting of ceramic fibers, crystalline mineral fibers, amorphous mineral fibers, mineral wood, glass fibers and fibers with refractory properties.

30. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 28, wherein the inorganic fibers are selected from the group consisting of ceramic fibers, crystalline mineral fibers, amorphous mineral fibers, mineral wood, glass fibers and fibers with refractory properties.

31. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the inorganic fibers include ceramic fibers selected from the group consisting of alumina, alumina-silicate, calcium silicate and silicates.

32. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 28, wherein the inorganic fibers include ceramic fibers selected from the group consisting of alumina, alumina-silicate, calcium silicate and silicates.

33.-35 (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) A filter element as claimed in claim ~~[[34]]~~ 27, wherein the catalyst comprises at least one precious metal or precious metal oxide.

37. (Currently Amended) A filter element as claimed in claim ~~[[34]]~~ 27, wherein the catalyst comprises at least one precious metal supported on metal oxide particles.

38. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 36, wherein the precious metal or precious metal oxide thereof comprises 0.1 to 1% of the mass of the reactant.

39. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 36, wherein the precious metal or precious metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, ruthenium, aluminum, titanium, tungsten, and vanadium.

40. (Previously Presented) filter element as claimed in claim 27, further comprising a binder system.

41. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 40, wherein the binder system comprises colloidal dispersion and at least one cationically modified starch or a flocculant.
42. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 41, wherein the colloidal dispersion contains at least one substance selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide or zirconium oxide.
43. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 41, wherein the flocculant is selected from the group consisting of poly acrylamide, anionic or cationic organics, or inorganic complexes.
44. (Previously Presented) A filter element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the filter element is a hollow, candle shaped filter element, closed at one end.
45. (Currently Amended) A filter element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the ~~reactant~~ catalyst comprises 35 to 40% (by mass) of a 1 meter filter element weighing 750 to 800g.
46. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacture of a filter element comprising the steps of:
- a. dispersing ceramic fibers in water;
 - b. adding a binder system;
 - c. mixing;
 - d. injection-molding to provide a filter element body of the desired shape; and

e. leaving the filter element to dry, wherein the method further includes the step of dispersing a ~~reactant~~ catalyst throughout the body of the filter element.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the step of dispersing said ~~reactant~~ catalyst is by dispersing said ~~reactant~~ catalyst in said water.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the step of dispersing said ~~reactant~~ catalyst is by saturating a formed filter element in said ~~reactant~~ catalyst.

49. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 48, wherein said ~~reactant~~ catalyst for saturating said formed filter element is applied in the form of a dilute aqueous solution or a suspension.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 48, wherein said step of saturating is performed before said step of drying.

51.-52. (Cancelled).

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, including the additional step of dipping a formed filter element into a dilute colloidal dispersion.

54.-55. (Cancelled).